

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FOR INA, IOR, IPS, IBS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION- MOROCCAN OPPOSITION PRESS ON U.S.

MIDEAST POLICY

SUMMARY: MOROCCAN PRESS UNIFORMLY PESSIMISTIC ON LIKELIHOOD
RESUMPTION OF GENEVA TALKS AFTER BEGIN VISIT. BEGIN VETO OF P.L.O.
REPRESENTATION AND PALESTINIAN REACTIONS WIDELY REPORTED.

2. MOROCCAN CHSS, BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION, HEADLINE
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER BEGIN POSITION ON P.L.O. REPRESENTATION IN
GENEVA AND SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF
GENEVA CONFERENCE. TONE RANGES FROM MILD DISAPPOINTMENT IN PRO-
GOVERNMENT PAPERS TO VIOLENT CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI AND AMERICAN
CYNICISM IN THOSE OF LEFT OPPOSITION.

2. PRO-GOVERNMENT "MAROC SOIR" FIVE-COLUMN HEAD SAYS "HEAVY BLOW
FOR THE CHANCE OF A MID-EAST SETTLEMENT ... THE ISRAELI PRIME
MINISTER VIRTUALLY TORPEDOES (RESUMPTION OF GENEVA TALKS) BY
VETOING P.L.O. PARTICIPATION." ARABIC PRO-GOVERNMENT
"AL MITHAQ AL WATANI" BEGINS ON MORE HOPEFUL NOTE, CITING
SCRANTON MEETING WITH P.L.O. REPRESENTATIVE AND PURPORTED ARAFAT
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LETTER TO CARTER WHICH PRINCE FAHD DELIVERED, BUT CONCLUDES BY
ASKING "WHY DOES THE U.S.A., LEADING THE MOVEMENT IN DEFENCE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS, FAIL TO SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS?"
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION'S "AL ANBA" AND OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL'S
"L'OPINION" SHARE SAME HEADLINE: "AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES BUT
DISAGREEMENT ON SUBSTANCE." PRO-GOVERNMENT "LE MATIN" TODAY RELEGATES
ISSUE TO INSIDE PAGE, QUOTING SEVERAL P.L.O. LEADERS INCLUDING

SALAH KHALAF WHO SAYS "NO SOLUTION WITHOUT AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE."

3. ISTIQLAL'S "AL ALAM", UNDER BYLINE OXSOMAR NAJIB, A FREQUENT COMMENTATOR ON ARAB/ISRAELI AFFAIRS, AND SUPPORTER OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE, SAYS "ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE BEGIN PLAN IS WAR."

4. USFP (SOCIALIST LEFT) IN ITS "MUHARRIR" SAYS "WHILE THE U.S. CALLS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S DEMANDS FOR SECURITY," WHICH, IT SAYS, EQUALS "ISRAELI EXPANSIONISM." AND CONCLUDES, WITH NAJIB, THAT ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS WAR. COMMUNIST "AL BAYANE" CIRTUALLY IGNORED BEGIN TRIP EXCEPT TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS A "PLOTING SESSION."

COMMENT. MOROCCAN REACTION GENERALLY REFLECTS PESSIMISTIC REACTIONS OF OTHER ARAB MEDIA, WHICH ARE WIDELY REPORTED. CONSIDERABLE SPACE GIVEN IN BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PAPERS TO STRONG P.L.O. REJECTION OF BEGIN PLAN AN INTRANSIGENT COMMENTS BY P.L.O. LEADERSHIP.STEPHENS

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